

THE TWELFTH DAY.

11th March 1922.

The Assembly met at 11-45 A. M. on Saturday, the 11th March 1922.

156. Christians and the public Service.

Rev. Father K. J. Kuriakose (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for the announcement made in regard to the early separation of Devaswoms from the Land Revenue Department and stated that this reform would remove one of the real grievances of a loyal community, viz., the Christians. Their complaint was that they were not getting the encouragement they deserved in the matter of entertainment in the public service. He pointed out that there was no Christian as Secretary to Government and that there was only one Christian as judge of the High Court. He requested that, in the circumstances, the Christian community be given better encouragement and allowed their legitimate share in the public service.

Deewan's reply.—I do not think that I should make a separate reply to your representation, as I have already replied to similar representations.

157. Public service and Travancore Muslims.

Mr. N. A. Mahomed Kunju (Member, Nominated) complained that even educationally-qualified members of the Mahomedan community did not get posts in the public service and that in some Departments it was usual to entertain Mahomedans for acting appointments just to satisfy the community and the Government, but only to dispense with their services when permanent vacancies occurred. This was due to the lack of Mahomedan officers with powers of appointment. He desired that Government should enquire how far Heads of Departments had acted up to the circulars issued by Government as regards the preference to be given to Mahomedans. The practice of submitting statements showing the number of appointments made had been stopped with the result that the Heads of Departments had their own way in the matter. He submitted to Government a list of Mahomedan applicants who had been put to trouble in this respect. The grant of permanent appointments to Mahomedans holding the School Leaving and School Final Certificates would, in his opinion, be a great incentive to education among Mahomedans, and the Member prayed that those Mahomedans who were already in the Government service might be given promotions. He regretted that no scholarship had been given to Mahomedans for higher studies in foreign countries, and requested that, with a view to enable Mahomedan candidates to send up applications, notifications regarding the award of scholarships for medical and other studies might be arranged to be published in the Gazette.

In conclusion, the Member observed that in the matter of nominating Mahomedan Members to the Assembly, the opinions of recognised Mahomedan Associations such as the Lajunathal Mahomedan Association.

Deewan's reply.—In regard to Mahomedan education, I have already given my reply to Messrs. Picha Bava Sahib and others who spoke on that subject. You say that passed men in your community have not been given Government appointments, although there is a circular to the effect that preference should be given to them. I have given my reply on that point also. A better method of recruitment to the public service is being considered and, when that is done, the result will, I hope, be more satisfactory. I have collected statistics as regards appointments made in 1926. They show that several Mahomedans have been given appointments in that year. You say that you have sent me a list of applicants for appointments. I shall examine the list when received.